

# *Rolling Toward Revolution... November, 1773*



*Coat of Arms of King George III of Great Britain*

**In London:** The Thames flowed on. Tea is loaded on ships at Britain's Atlantic ports and soon bound for America.

**In Boston:** On Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> John Hancock is elected moderator of a town meeting. The debate: RESOLVED--Anyone supporting the Tea Act is a traitor to America. The resolution passes.

**In New Jersey:** Delegates are enroute throughout New Jersey in response to Governor Franklin's convening of the general assembly of the Royal Colony this month. The Royal Governor convened the Provincial General Assembly (a "lower house") during two or three times per year when there was sufficient business. Elected assemblymen traveled to either Perth Amboy or Burlington, the old seats of the East and West Jersey proprietary colonies. A residence for Royal Governor Franklin at Amboy was completed in 1764. (The British would never call it Perth Amboy because the Earl of Perth, an East Jersey Proprietor, was a rebel Scot who had sided with the abdicated King James II and was imprisoned). After 1702 when the Jerseys united, Amboy was the seat of the Royal Colonial Government. Franklin and his wife would move into the refurbished mansion, "Proprietary House" <https://www.theproprietaryhouse.org/>. Alternating Assembly meetings between East/West Jersey continued, however. This month, members traveled to Burlington where sessions were held from November 10 until March 11 of 1774. The startup of business was slow, because not everyone showed up and it took some days to get a quorum...

**In the Raritan Valley:** Hendrick Fisher likely began his long trek to Burlington as soon as he was sure the fall harvest was done. He arrived for the session on November 12, the first with a quorum. John Roy of Basking Ridge did not come. He attended only the first session earlier that year, so a replacement was likely. Getting to Burlington was several days arduous overland travel from Somerset County on the Lower Road traveling southwest toward Trenton on the King's Highway. Or Fisher may have traveled west on the Old York Road toward the Delaware, and then turned south. In either case, the final leg of the journey may have been by packet or sloop. Burlington, like Perth Amboy, was a port city. Fisher, already well into his 7<sup>th</sup> decade, must have been a hearty soul-- or perhaps travel to a livelier place than bucolic Somerset County was an adventure for him.

Produced by The Heritage Trail Association, 2023

Additional Sources:

Today in American History --On this day <https://www.onthisday.com/today/american-history.php>

Snell, J. P. (1881) *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*. Philadelphia: Lippincott.